

Eugenia uniflora

Eugenia uniflora, the **pitanga**,^[5] **Suriname cherry**,^[6] **Brazilian cherry**,^[5] **Cayenne cherry**,^[7] **cerisier carré**,^[8] **monkimonki kersie**, **ñangapirí**,^[9] or **shimarucu**^[10] is a **flowering plant** in the family **Myrtaceae**, native to tropical South America's east coast, ranging from **Suriname**, **French Guiana** to southern **Brazil**, as well as **Uruguay** and parts of **Paraguay** and **Argentina**.^{[8][11][12]} It is often used in gardens as a hedge or screen. The tree was introduced to **Bermuda** for ornamental purposes but is now out of control and listed as an **invasive species**.^[13] The tree has also been introduced to **Florida**.^[14]

Surinam cherry
 

Pitanga, (surinam-cherry), raw	
Nutritional value per 100 g (3.5 oz)	
Energy	138 kJ (33 kcal)
Carbohydrates	7.49 g
Fat	0.4 g
Protein	0.8 g
Vitamins and minerals [show]	
Link to USDA Database entry (https://web.archive.org/web/20160309205823/https://ndb.nal.usda.gov/ndb/search/list?qlookup=09276&format=Full)	
[†] Percentages estimated using US recommendations for adults, ^[3] except for potassium, which is estimated based on expert recommendation from the National Academies . ^[4]	

Description

Eugenia uniflora is a large shrub or small tree with a conical form, growing slowly to 8 metres (26 ft) high. When bruised, crushed, or cut, the leaves and branches have a spicy [resinous](#) fragrance, which can cause respiratory discomfort in susceptible individuals. The leaves are without stipules, ovate, glossy, and held in opposite pairs.^[7] New leaves are bronze, copper, or coppery-pinkish in color, maturing to deep glossy green, up to 4 centimetres (1.6 in) long. During winter, the leaves turn red.

Flowers have four white petals and are borne on long slender stalks, with a conspicuous central cluster of white [stamens](#) ending in yellow anthers. Flowers develop into ribbed fruits 2 to 4 centimetres (0.79 to 1.57 in) long, starting as green, then ranging through orange, scarlet, and maroon as they ripen. Because fruit-eating birds distribute the seeds, they can become a weed in suitable tropical and sub-tropical habitats, displacing native flora.^[7]

Uses

Culinary uses

The edible fruit is a [botanical berry](#). The taste ranges from sweet to sour, depending on the [cultivar](#) and level of ripeness (the darker red to black range is quite sweet, while the green to orange range is strikingly tart). Its predominant food use is as a flavoring and base for jams and jellies.^[15] The fruit is high in [vitamin C](#) and a source of [provitamin A](#).

The leaves are also used for tea in certain parts of Uruguay.

Use as an insect repellent

The leaves are spread on some house floors in Brazil so that they exude a smell that repels flies when crushed underfoot.

Medical uses

Eugenia uniflora has several significant pharmacological properties.^[16] Its essential oil is [antihypertensive](#),^{[16][17]} [antidiabetic](#),^[18] [antitumor](#)^[19] and [analgesic](#),^[20] and it has shown antiviral and antifungal activity.^[21] It has performed against microorganisms such as *Trichomonas gallinae* (in vitro),^[22] *Trypanosoma cruzi*^[23] and *Leishmania amazonensis*.^{[16][24]}

Gallery



flowers



Eugenia uniflora fruits



Eugenia uniflora



Eugenia uniflora



Eugenia uniflora



Eugenia uniflora -
young leaves



With fruits on tree



Pitanga jam

References

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External links

- Purdue University New Crop Resource Online Program (http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/surinam_cherry.html)
- *Eugenia uniflora* in the Global Invasive Species Database (http://www.issg.org/database/species/impact_info.asp?si=983&fr=1&sts=&lang=EN) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20130227133558/http://www.issg.org/database/species/impact_info.asp?si=983&fr=1&sts=&lang=EN) 2013-02-27 at the Wayback Machine
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